

## BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING SALEM. NEW JERSEY 08079

## ROBIN BENJAMIN WEINSTEIN, MTS

**Deputy County Administrator** 

(SALEM, NJ)—Deputy Freeholder Director David Lindenmuth, Chair of the County Public Safety Committee, today announced that the Board of Chosen Freeholders appointed David Polk as Director of Emergency Management at their February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Polk is replacing Carl Wentzell as the County Emergency Management Coordinator. Wentzell, who is retiring in April, also served as the Director of Emergency Services, which has been replaced by Patrick Spring, who was promoted from his title of Domestic Preparedness Coordinator to Executive Director of Emergency Services.

"The Freeholders are committed to ensuring that we have the best qualified people in these important positions and we believe that these are the right guys," said Deputy Director Lindenmuth. "We will miss Carl and wish him a happy and healthy retirement. We are grateful that Carl will be staying on until April to help Patrick and David prepare for the federally graded emergency management drill."

The new make-up of the Office of Emergency Management is expected to have an annual savings in salary and wages of approximately \$20,000 after Wentzell's retirement in April, and the hiring of a new Safety Officer who will fill Mack Lake's position. Polk's salary is \$55,000, while Spring's salary is \$65,000.

"We have not increased the number of employees, rather we have realigned the positions to best address the needs of the County," said Deputy Director Lindenmuth. "David Polk is joining a great team and we believe that he will be a great asset to the County."

The Office of Emergency Management, now headed by Patrick Spring, includes the Fire Academy, 9-11 Center, the Fire Marshall's Office, and C-BRNE Team, along with Emergency Management.

Patrick started as Executive Director January 1, 2008. He is married to his wife Mary who is a school teacher and they have three children. Recently retired from the fire service after 28 years of service, 20 of those years were served as Logan Township Fire Chief. He also served as a Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for 18 years. He currently serves as the Chief of the Salem County Hazardous Materials Response Team. He has also been a Fire Instructor for 25 years and serves as an adjunct instructor for Kean University.

David is a retired sergeant with the Pennsville Police Department where he served for 25 years. He has also served for 21 years in the Pennsville Emergency Management Office, with 6 years as the Township Emergency Management Coordinator. David was recently awarded an "Exceptional Service" award by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III on February 7, 2008 for service the Philadelphia FBI Office. He is married to his wife Patricia and they have two children, Caitlin and Michael. He has been a resident of Salem County for 45 years.